

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 26, 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell July 26th 75 P. O. Box 518 Brantford, Ont., Can. Home, July 26th 75 (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U. S.) My dear Aleck,

You will wonder at such an unusually long time having elapsed since my last letter, but I have had no opportunity for writing. You will know by the card Papa sent you from Southampton, that we were then taking our annual trip. Your cousins being here enabled us to take a week's holiday which we enjoyed very much. Southampton is not much in itself, but the air is as cool and bracing as the seashore. From there, after tarrying one night, we had a buggy drive through the forest to Owen Sound, which is a pretty place and equally as bracing. Here we took the steamboat for a cruise on Lake George and spent two nights on a rugged Scotland like hill-side in a tiny hotel amidst a half dozen cottages. Here the water was so clear and the fish so plentiful, that we could see them swimming about in swarms. Later Papa met with an amusing companion a Doctor, rather a la Dr. Hurd. "Mine host" had among other occupations, the working of the Telegraph and seemed to be a good performer on the Melodion, playing Handel's Music. Enormous masses of granite, grey and red, were lying about in all directions. On Friday we returned to Owen Sound, and took the train for Toronto, arriving there at 9 in the evening. On Saturday morning we called on Willis Henderson, looked at the shops and home in time for tea. The woman servant I spoke of, staid with us for about three weeks but as her boy was not sufficiently industrious to suit Mr. Wye, he had to seek services elsewhere, and as she would not live out of his immediate neighborhood she of course had to go. We were then again without anybody. The day but one 2 before we left home, we had a very urgent appeal from William. Very much cast down for what was past, and making most solemn promises for the future if we would only take Pollie back again. We told him she

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could not come back to live under the same roof with him unless they were married. That if they married and would give a like promise not to live as man and wife, till both were of a more proper age to do so, I did not mind her coming. Well the promise was given and they were accordingly married on the 19th, our wedding day! I hope the promise will be kept, but hardly feel that the plan was a wise one. We are going on very well so far. You will be sorry to hear that Deaf William met with an accident. He fell off a pole and broke something in his neck. Papa was intending to go and see him today but was hurried home by an approaching storm which he barely saved being caught in. We think however the injury is not so serious as was at first apprehended. We thought it just possible that we might find you at Tutelo Heights when we got home. Uncle David let us see the letter you wrote to him, and we hope you will not disappoint us altogether of seeing you this summer. How speeds a certain pursuit? In one of my letters you said you would like M. E. to know about the matter. I should feel very awkward in mentioning it to her. There is no doubt but your view of that affair is the correct one. I certainly thought her conduct on that occasion very inconsistent. She told me plainly she had only a warm friendship for you, that she was "free as air", that you must separate till you were ready to marry, and were not even to correspond. Yet at the bidding of her Mother, she staid on at our house keeping up the ferment in your mind and behaving just as if she had accepted you and was engaged, for a fortnight afterwards, till at length I seeing the effect it had upon you, asked her to terminate her visit. From that day to this the subject has never been alluded to between us. I do not owe her a letter having written soon after the last 3 New Year. She asked me in her last if you had ever received some Music she sent. I told her I had not heard of it, but that Carrie thought she had seen some bearing the title named, among your Music. I told her moreover that I would ask you but it would be useless to delay my letter for the answer as your mind was so immersed in scientific pursuits, that you wrote of little besides, and would be sure to forget the question by the time you answered my letter. Now she would not build anything very flattering upon this, and at any rate I think the disclosure of your state of feeling at present would be premature. Better bide a wee. I do not think you have written to M. E. since you have been in Canada have you? Aunt Ellen has had a taste of

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Canadian difficulties. Margaret marched off a fortnight ago, and for a fortnight they have been without any servant till two days ago when they obtained one. Fancy poor Aunt having to get up to light the kitchen fire, and do the cooking! Charlie has a situation in a Bank at St. Catherine's, we are very glad he is employed at last. Mary is just now on a visit to Carrie. The girls are all well. We hope your work is progressing favorably and will soon be over so that we may have the happiness of once more seeing you at home. Lizzie I think has improved. She is a very nice amiable creature. Mary and Louisa play extremely well. Papa is fairly done up with the heat and is in a comfortable nap sofa-wise. Willie and Tiney are napping also. A little humming bird poises for an instant here and there on the Larkspur and I having come to the end of my paper, wind up with fond love from all, and from,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell P.S. In your letter to Uncle you said you enclosed Mr. Redpath's letter, but it was non est. E.M.B.